

CITY OF GREENBELT
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M E M O R A N D U M

Date: June 1, 2016

To: Michael McLaughlin, City Manager *mm*

Via: Jim Sterling, Director of Public Works

From: Luisa Robles, Sustainability Coordinator II

Regarding: Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition (GBWC)

The City of Greenbelt has been a member of the Baltimore-Washington Partners in Forest Stewardship (BWPFS) since June 23, 2011. As a BWPFS member, Public Works attends quarterly meetings participating and helping with all the initiatives of the BWPFS.

The BWPFS Steering Committee has agreed to join with other federal, state, local area governments, and nonprofit organizations to expand the area of stewardship, restoration and conservation of the region. The members of this larger area will be called the Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition (GBWC).

The mission of the GBWC is to improve the quality of life for residents and visitors of central Maryland by identifying, restoring, enhancing and protecting an interconnected network of lands and waters supporting healthy ecosystems and communities that benefit people and wildlife. The mission is no different than the BWPFS only on a larger scale.

The GBWC is similar to the BWPFS in how they share information and there is no agency resource commitment other than attending a quarterly meeting. BWPFS members are being asked to sign the GBWC Accord (Accord) since it is in harmony with the goals of the BWPFS. The Accord has been approved by 23 others organizations including Maryland National Capital Park and Planning and most recently by the City of Bowie.

Staff recommends that Council support the Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition Accord by signing the Accord. Staff has found the information sharing and networking for this initiative to be very valuable for staff development and the initiative is improving interconnected waterways, habitat and land throughout the region.